

What is claimed is:

1 1. An apparatus for removing a sheath on an optical fiber cable, the
2 apparatus comprising:
3 a body having a central hole, the body being split for positioning around
4 the cable;
5 first and second opposed cutting blades having cutting edges protruding
6 from the body into the central hole, said cutting edges facing the cable, said blades being
7 positioned at a cutting angle to a transverse plane of the cable;
8 first and second adjusting screws rotatably mounted in said body for
9 urging said first and second cutting blades toward said cable;
10 first and second continuity test circuits for testing electrical continuity
11 between a metallic sub-sheath of the cable and corresponding ones of the first and second
12 cutting blades; and
13 a cable stabilizer bushing for contacting and aligning said body, said
14 bushing having a central hole for accepting the cable, said bushing further having a
15 plurality of elastomeric rollers extending into the hole for rolling on the cable, said
16 bushing being split for positioning around the cable.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting edges of the cutting
2 blades are elliptical.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a locking clasp for
2 locking said body on the cable.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable stabilizer bushing
2 further comprises first and second locking clasps for locking said bushing on the cable.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a jumper wire for
2 connecting the continuity circuits to the metallic sub-sheath of the cable.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the continuity circuits each
2 comprise a battery, an indicator light and a continuity lug for connecting a jumper wire.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the indicator light is a green
2 LED.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising first and second blade
2 retainers slideably mounted in the housing and contacting corresponding adjusting
3 screws; said blade retainers having blade stops for backing up said cutting blades.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first and second blade
2 retainers further comprise magnets proximate said blades for retaining said blades during
3 removal and insertion of the blades to the body.

1 10. A method for removing a sheath at a mid-sheath point on an
2 optical fiber cable, the method comprising the steps of:
3 clamping a cutter body around the cable;
4 turning a first adjustment screw to advance a first cutting blade into the
5 sheath until a first continuity circuit indicates that there is electrical continuity between
6 the first cutting blade and a metallic sub-sheath of the cable;

7 turning a second adjustment screw to advance a second cutting blade
8 opposing the first cutting blade into the sheath until a second continuity circuit indicates
9 that there is electrical continuity between the second cutting blade and the metallic sub-
10 sheath; and
11 advancing the cutter body in a longitudinal direction along the cable,
12 whereby the first and second cutting blades remove portions of the sheath.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 clamping a cable stabilization bushing around the cable; and
3 maintaining alignment of the cutter body by contacting the body with the
4 cable stabilization bushing.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 assembling the first and second cutting blades on magnetized blade
3 supports; and
4 inserting the blade supports into the housing.

1 13. An apparatus for removing a sheath on a cable, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3 a body having a central hole;
4 a plurality of opposed cutting blades having cutting edges protruding from
5 the body into the central hole, said cutting edges facing the cable, said blades being
6 positioned at cutting angles to a transverse plane of the cable;

7 a plurality of adjusting screws rotatably mounted in said body for urging
8 corresponding ones of said cutting blades toward said cable; and
9 at least one continuity test circuit for testing electrical continuity between
10 a metallic sub-sheath of the cable and the cutting blades.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a cable stabilizer
2 bushing for contacting and aligning said body, said bushing having a central hole for
3 accepting the cable.

4 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said bushing further comprises
5 a plurality of elastomeric rollers extending into the hole for rolling on the cable.

6 16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said bushing is split for
7 positioning around the cable.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a jumper wire for
2 connecting the at least one continuity circuit to the metallic sub-sheath of the cable.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one continuity
2 circuit comprises a battery, an indicator light and a continuity lug for connecting a jumper
3 wire.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a locking clasp for
2 locking said body on the cable.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the cutting angles are each
2 about 45 degrees.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the cutting edges of the cutting
2 blades are elliptical.